

GUILD MEMBERS TO BE CONSULTED ON THREE YEAR PAY DEAL

Members of the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists (GHP) will be consulted, through Unite, on the proposed 3 year pay deal announced this week.

The proposed deal gives a pay award of 2.75% in 2008/09, 2.4% in 2009/10 and 2.25% in 2010/11. There is the opportunity to re-open talks if inflation is higher than expected or if the NHS experiences recruitment and retention difficulties. There will be additional payments for some staff in pay bands 1 and 5 in year 2 of the deal. There will be further discussions within the 3 year period to look at reducing the number of increments in pay bands 6 and 7.

Dave Thornton, Chair of Terms and Conditions for GHP, said “There are a number of good points within the proposal. In particular, this year’s pay award implements the Pay Review Body’s recommendation of 2.75% in full from April across all four countries. The opportunity to re-open talks if inflation is higher than expected is a welcomed safeguard for years 2 and 3. However, of particular potential interest to pharmacists is the proposal to look at reducing the number of incremental points in bands 6 and 7. This could have a positive impact on a large number of pharmacists allowing faster pay progression thereby narrowing the salary gap between the managed and private sectors.” He added “We will need to look closely at the proposals before making a formal recommendation to our members.”

Notes for Editors

The Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists represents UK wide around 4,000 pharmacists including the majority of hospital pharmacists, pharmacists employed by Primary Care Trusts and pharmacists employed by other public bodies such as the Healthcare Commission, and is part of the health sector of the union Unite-Amicus section.

For further information contact Dave Thornton, Chair of Terms and Conditions GHP, 0151 529 2218